

Session: 22427

Title: Sport connecting young people

Sport is an empowering action, both physical and mental, that "naturally" brings together people, also from different countries. Young people use sport as an universal language: with its rules, equal for all, it makes it easier to stay together, even when you come from different countries and cultures. Sport is a healthy competition that can easily become a means of communication. It is more important than ever that, at this historical moment, young people meet and confront.

FAIC is a non-profit international association, born in 1999, open to Municipalities of the Adriatic-Ionian basin. The aim of the Association, based in Ancona (Italy), is to create a place for intercultural dialogue and political mediation and to foster a peaceful Adriatic and Ionian community. Over the years, FAIC has strengthened the relations and enhanced cooperation with its Members, with the aim of supporting its target group: young people coming from the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion.

For this reason, FAIC has been collaborating with the Municipality of Ancona in the organization of the YOUTH GAMES and with the Municipality of Durres for the EUSAIR4YOUTH project. FAIC favored the exchange of best practice between the two cities.

YOUTH GAMES, since the first year of its implementation, in 2014, is an international initiative created by the Municipality of Ancona, in cooperation with the FAIC. The Youth Games have now become a fixed appointment of the Adriatic Ionian Macroregion, a real format proposed also in 2022, in a reduced key, by the Municipality of Durres.

EUSAIR4YOUTH is a project that proposes a 3x3 basket competition between young people coming from the EUSAIR Countries.

In our workshop, we would like to show what has been done (we will present some videos and photos of the past editions, where maybe some of the participants can recognize himself!) and what we would like to do in the future to strengthen the role of the young people in the international context of the Macroregion.

The "inventor" of the Youth Games will be invited to present the history of the games: with 4 editions, focused on at least 10 disciplines per edition, the sport event saw the participation of thousands of young athletes.

The "present" of the Games will be presented by a representative from the Municipality of Durres, that in september 2022 will organize the 3x3 basket competition.

The future of the initiative will be presented by a representative of FAIC, who will explain the future perspectives.

In addition:

- a young athlete selected within the Durrës' Youth Games will be invited to tell his experience;
- we will listen to the voice of former participants, through short "video testimonials".

The workshop aims at showing the best practice of the Youth Games, that easily can be replicated as a mean of cooperation, intercultural dialogue and fraternity between different Countries.